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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRIAN D. CAVALIER,

Defendant.

2:16-CR-00046-GMN-PAL

**GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN  
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT  
BRIAN D. CAVALIER'S  
OBJECTIONS TO  
MAGISTRATE'S ORDER (C.R.  
314)**

**CERTIFICATION:** Pursuant to Local Rule 12-1, this response is timely filed.

The United States, by and through the undersigned, respectfully submits its Response in Opposition to Defendant Brian D. Cavalier's ("Cavalier's") Objections to Magistrate's Order (C.R. 314) (hereinafter "Objections"). Cavalier objects to the Court's April 22, 2016, Order (C.R. 310), to the continuation of the trial in this matter, and to his and his co-defendants return to the District of Oregon where they are awaiting trial. (C.R. 314) As discussed below, Cavalier's objections lack any legal or factual merit and therefore should be overruled.

## BACKGROUND

On March 2, 2016, Cavalier and eighteen other defendants were charged in a Superseding Indictment by a grand jury sitting in the District of Nevada with numerous crimes of violence in connection with their alleged participation in a conspiracy to use force, violence and firearms to assault and extort federal officers on April 12, 2014, near Bunkerville, Nevada. The charges included assault with a deadly weapon on a federal law enforcement officer, threatening a federal law enforcement officer, obstruction of justice, extortion of a federal officer, use and brandish a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, and conspiracy to commit same, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 111(a)(1) and (b), 115, 924(c), 1503, 1951 and 371, respectively. Arrest warrants were issued for all nineteen defendants.

Before the filing of the Superseding Indictment, seven of the defendants involved in the instant case also participated in the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) in eastern Oregon in January 2016. MNWR was held by heavily armed intruders for 41 days until the final occupiers surrendered. An indictment was returned in Oregon for the armed takeover and the common defendants were arrested between January 26, 2016, and February 11, 2016. These defendants include Ammon Bundy, Ryan Bundy, Ryan Payne, Brian Cavalier, Joseph O'Shaughnessy, Peter Santilli, and Blaine Cooper ("common defendants"). The seven defendants were charged in a Superseding Indictment in the Oregon case on March 8, 2016, with six counts including: conspiracy to impede a federal officer, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 372, possession of firearms in a federal facility, in

1 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 930(b), using and carrying firearms in relation to a crime of  
2 violence, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), theft of government property, in violation  
3 of 18 U.S.C. § 641, and depredation of government property, in violation of 18  
4 U.S.C. § 1361.

5 At the request of the government, the Court in Nevada issued a writ of  
6 habeas corpus *ad prosequendum* (hereinafter “writ” or “writ *ad pros*”) requiring the  
7 United States Marshal Service (USMS) to transport Cavalier from pretrial  
8 detention in Oregon to a detention facility in Nevada so that he could be arraigned  
9 on the Nevada Superseding Indictment and joined for trial with his co-defendants.

10 Cavalier, and the other common defendants detained in Oregon fought to  
11 stay execution of the writs and to remain in Oregon, filing motions to stay and  
12 asserting at a hearing held before United States District Court Judge Anna Brown,  
13 the presiding judge in the Oregon matter, that they should not be transferred until  
14 the Oregon matter was resolved. Judge Brown denied the common defendants’  
15 motion to stay and ordered that they be transported to Nevada for arraignment and  
16 appointment of counsel and then returned to Oregon to prepare for trial. At least  
17 one of the defendants appealed Judge Brown’s order to the Ninth Circuit and the  
18 appeal is currently pending.

19 On April 15, 2016, Cavalier appeared in the District of Nevada and was  
20 appointed counsel. (C.R. 250) On April 22, 2016, all defendants in the case  
21 attended a status conference that was set in order to determine whether the case  
22 was complex and when trial could be set, amongst other things.  
23  
24

1 At that hearing, the government stated that the case should be declared  
2 complex on the following bases: (1) discovery was voluminous; (2) nineteen  
3 defendants had been joined for trial; and (3) seven of the nineteen defendants were  
4 pending trial in Oregon and were under court order to return to Oregon on or before  
5 April 25, 2016 to prepare for a September 2016 trial.

6 The government further explained the nature of the discovery in this case,  
7 describing for the Court the volume of evidence adduced during the course of the  
8 investigation, culminating in approximately 1.4 terabytes of digital data comprised  
9 mostly of audio and video recordings. (C.R. 327) That same day, Magistrate Judge  
10 Leen issued a written order vacating the May 2, 2016, trial date and indicating that  
11 the Court would set forth in a subsequent written order the court's ruling on the  
12 motion to declare the case complex. (C.R. 310)

13 On April 25, 2016, Cavalier filed his objections to the Court's April 22, 2016,  
14 Order, incorrectly asserting that this Order declared the case complex. (C.R. 314)  
15 Cavalier objected specifically to the order, to the continuation of the trial date, and  
16 to his transfer back to the District of Oregon. The stated basis for Cavalier's  
17 objections is that these events violate his Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial.  
18 (C.R. 314)

19 Subsequent to the filing of Cavalier's objections, and on April 26, 2016,  
20 Magistrate Judge Leen entered a 14-page Case Management Order, finding the  
21 case complex under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3161(h)(7)(B)(ii) and  
22 setting trial for February 6, 2017, as to all defendants, including Cavalier. (C.R.  
23 321). In her Order, Judge Leen made specific findings regarding exclusions of time  
24

1 under the Speedy Trial Act, excluding all time between arraignment and the  
2 February trial date and setting milestone dates for the production of discovery and  
3 pretrial motions. (C.R. 321 (Judge Leen's Case Management Order of April 26,  
4 2016).)

5 For the reasons discussed below, Cavalier's Objections should be overruled  
6 and Judge Leen's Case Management Order should be upheld. Cavalier cannot  
7 establish a speedy trial violation solely on the basis that he has been joined for  
8 trial with his co-defendants in this case or that he has been returned to the  
9 District of Oregon to await trial in that case.

#### 10 **LEGAL STANDARD**

11 The Sixth Amendment right to speedy trial attaches at the time the case is  
12 indicted. *United States v. Lovasco*, 431 U.S. 783, 788-89 (1977). A defendant's right  
13 to speedy trial under the Sixth Amendment is a "more vague concept than other  
14 procedural rights." *Barker v. Wingo*, 407 U.S. 514, 527 (1972). "The nature of the  
15 speedy trial right does make it impossible to pinpoint a precise time in the process  
16 when the right must be asserted or waived." *Id.*

17  
18 In assessing whether a Sixth Amendment violation occurred, the Court  
19 weighs the following factors: (1) the length of the delay; (2) the reason for the delay;  
20 (3) the defendant's assertion of the right; and (4) the prejudice resulting from the  
21 delay. *Id.* at 531-33. Courts presume prejudice after a delay of more than one year  
22 from indictment. *Doggett v. United States*, 505 U.S. 647, 652 (1992).

1 Because of the imprecise nature of the Sixth Amendment analysis, courts  
2 traditionally review claims of speedy trial violations within the context of the  
3 Speedy Trial Act (STA), Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3161-3174. The  
4 Ninth Circuit has noted that “it will be an unusual case in which the time limits of  
5 the Speedy Trial Act have been met but the Sixth Amendment right to speedy trial  
6 has been violated.” *United States v. Nance*, 666 F.2d 353, 360 (9th Cir. 1982). This  
7 is so because the “Speedy Trial Act affords greater protection to a defendant's right  
8 to a speedy trial than is guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, and therefore a trial  
9 which complies with the Act raises a strong presumption of compliance with the  
10 Constitution.” *United States v. Baker*, 63 F.3d 1478, 1497 (9th Cir. 1995).

11  
12 The Speedy Trial Act provides:

13 In any case in which a plea of not guilty is entered, the trial of a  
14 defendant charged in an information or indictment with the  
15 commission of an offense shall commence within seventy days from the  
16 filing date (and making public) of the information or indictment, or  
from the date the defendant has appeared before a judicial officer of  
the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs.

17 18 U.S.C. § 3161(c)(1).

18 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(1)-(8) there are eight circumstances when a  
19 period of delay shall be excluded. Section 3161(h)(7)(A) allows a delay to be  
20 excluded when an ends of justice continuance is requested *sua sponte*, by defense, or  
21 by the government. Before granting a continuance, the judge must consider  
22 whether a continuance is justified under § 3161(h)(7)(B). A continuance may be  
23 granted when the case is “so unusual or so complex, due to the number of  
24

1 defendants, the nature of prosecution, or the existence of novel questions of fact or  
2 law, that it is unreasonable to expect adequate preparation for pretrial proceedings  
3 or for the trial itself.” 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(ii). A court may also grant an ends  
4 of justice continuance if, “the failure to grant such a continuance in a case which,  
5 taken as a whole, is not so unusual or so complex as to fall within clause (ii), would  
6 unreasonably deny . . . the attorney for the Government the reasonable time  
7 necessary for effective preparation.” 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv). “In setting forth  
8 the statutory factors that justify a continuance under subsection (h)(7), Congress  
9 twice recognized the importance of adequate pretrial preparation time [See §  
10 3161(h)(7)(B)(ii) and § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv)].” *Bloate v. United States*, 559 U.S. 196, 210-  
11 11 (2010).

## 12 13 ARGUMENT

14 Cavalier’s objections allege a number of grievances relating to Judge Leen’s  
15 April 22, 2016, Order. (C.R. 314) As an initial matter, Cavalier’s Objections, filed  
16 on April 25, 2016, incorrectly asserts that Judge Leen’s April 22, 2016, Order  
17 declared the case complex. (C.R. 314) However, the April 22, 2016, Order merely  
18 vacated the May 2 trial date and associated calendar call date. Judge Leen’s April  
19 26, 2016, Order, issued the day after Cavalier filed his objections declared the case  
20 complex and set the February 2017 trial date. (C.R. 321) Cavalier therefore filed  
21 his objections without the benefit of reviewing Judge Leen’s fourteen-page, detailed  
22 Case Management Order, which articulated the factual and legal bases for  
23 declaring the case complex.  
24

1 Accordingly, Cavalier's "objections" fail to articulate any arguments  
2 supported by law or fact opposing Judge Leen's reasoning for declaring the case  
3 complex or for setting the February 2017 trial date. Instead, Cavalier raises  
4 objections unsupported by either the facts or the law, arguing in sum that because  
5 the government "chose" to indict two cases around the same time, took nearly two  
6 years to investigate and charge the Nevada case, and because the defendant could  
7 not both obtain an immediate trial and prepare adequately for trial at the same  
8 time, his Sixth Amendment rights have been violated. (C.R. 314)

9  
10 Judge Leen considered all of the arguments Cavalier raises in his objections  
11 as they were all raised at the April 22 hearing both by Cavalier and the other  
12 defendants. (C.R. 327) Additionally, Judge Leen's April 26, 2016 Order was filed  
13 after Cavalier filed these objections and the Court was thus able to consider such  
14 objections in deciding and issuing the Order. (C.R. 321) As discussed below,  
15 Cavalier raises nothing new that the Court did not have an opportunity to consider  
16 before issuing the April 26 Order, and certainly nothing that has not already been  
17 addressed and rejected by the law.

18 First, Cavalier has properly been joined for trial with eighteen (18) other co-  
19 defendants charged with serious crimes of violence arising in Nevada. The  
20 government acted diligently and properly in seeking writs *ad pros* to compel  
21 Cavalier to be transported to Nevada so he could be joined for trial with his co-  
22 defendants. No Sixth Amendment violation occurred as a result and Cavalier can  
23 cite no authority to the contrary.  
24



1 Cavalier's Sixth Amendment right to a speedy trial was triggered on March  
2 2, 2016, when the Superseding Indictment was returned in this case. Thus, upon  
3 indictment, the Sixth Amendment placed "the primary burden on the courts and the  
4 prosecutors to assure that [his case is] brought to trial." *Barker*, 407 U.S. at 527.  
5 To meet that burden, the government took the post-indictment steps necessary –  
6 among them seeking a writ *ad pros* on Cavalier – to join all of the defendants for  
7 trial.

8 Contrary to Cavalier's argument, while the Sixth Amendment guarantees  
9 Cavalier's right to a speedy trial, it does not guarantee that he can never be charged  
10 in a conspiracy case while he is pending charges in another district. Were it  
11 otherwise, the government would be forced to forebear from ever charging and  
12 joining all defendants for trial whenever a single co-defendant is pending trial  
13 someplace else -- even if it meant losing the charges to the statute of limitations.  
14 There simply is no authority for the proposition that the Sixth Amendment dictates  
15 when or where a case will be indicted. To the contrary, it is well established that  
16 prosecutorial discretion extends not only to whom to prosecute, see *Town of Newton*  
17 *v. Rumerv*, 480 U.S. 386, 396 (1987); *Wayte v. United States*, 470 U.S. 598, 607  
18 (1985), but when to prosecute. See *United States v. Lovasco*, 431 U.S. 783, 790  
19 (1977). And, as a general matter, decisions made within prosecutorial discretion  
20 are beyond judicial review. See *United States v. Bauer*, 84 F.3d 1549, 1560 (9th Cir.  
21 1996).

1 Here, nineteen defendants – including Cavalier – have been charged jointly  
2 by a grand jury in an alleged conspiracy to commit serious crimes of violence  
3 against federal law enforcement officer in Nevada. The law places no obligation on  
4 the government to wait to indict Cavalier and his co-conspirators until such time as  
5 when and if Cavalier completes his trial in Oregon. That is an enormous price for  
6 the victims and the community to pay for the vague and wholly unsupported notion  
7 that criminal charges must proceed one at a time.

8 Second, the Sixth Amendment guarantees Cavalier a speedy trial – not an  
9 immediate one. The fact that Cavalier is now joined for trial with his co-defendants  
10 in Nevada – by virtue of the writs *ad pros* – does no violence to his right to speedy  
11 trial as long as the government makes good faith efforts to bring him to trial timely  
12 in the Nevada case. Here, all indications are that the case is proceeding forward  
13 toward trial in a timely manner.

14 Cavalier’s trial date is set for February 6, 2017 – less than the one year from  
15 the initial Nevada indictment, the period of time that *Barker v. Wingo* (five years  
16 delay did not violate the Sixth Amendment) and its progeny contemplated as  
17 triggering the inquiry into whether a trial occurs sufficiently speedily. *Doggett*, 505  
18 U.S. at 505. At less than one year, there is no need even to balance the *Barker*  
19 factors. *United States v. Waters*, No. 2:15-CR-80-JCM-VCF, 2016 WL 1688622, at  
20 \*4 (D. Nev. Apr. 5, 2016) (“The length of the delay is to some extent a triggering  
21 mechanism.”).

Moreover, any delay contemplated by the Court's trial setting has been addressed and specifically excluded under the STA – the starting point for any speedy trial analysis under current case law. Magistrate Judge Leen held a two-hour hearing to determine whether the nature of the case was complex and to ascertain all defendants' proposed trial dates, some of whom had agreed to a February 2017 trial date. At that hearing, Judge Leen considered the government's showing, Cavalier's arguments, and those of his eighteen co-defendants. None of the defendants, including Cavalier, sought trial on the original setting of May 2 and the only other date that was proposed to Judge Leen at the hearing was February 6, 2017, a date agreed upon by some of the co-defendants.

Following the hearing and in a very detailed and well-reasoned Order, Judge Leen designated this case as complex and set the February 2017 trial date. (C.R. 321) In so doing, she found that all time between Cavalier's arraignment on April 15, 2016, and the trial setting was excluded under the STA, making very specific and detailed findings, including Cavalier's joinder with other co-defendants who sought a February 6, 2017, trial date and the complex nature of the case. (C.R. 321 at pp. 7-13.)

This hardly evidences a lackadaisical attempt to get Cavalier to trial which is what *Barker v. Wingo* attempts to prevent in the first place. To the contrary, Magistrate Judge Leen set very clear milestones for the government's production of discovery and the filing of motions, including motions for severance. The case is proceeding to trial along the lines outlined in the Order and the exclusions of time

1 identified in the Order are consistent with the STA and, hence, the Sixth  
2 Amendment.

3 Further in this same vein, any delay in the Nevada case that is attributed to  
4 Cavalier's trial on the charges in Oregon is specifically addressed in the STA.  
5 Section 3161(h)(1)(B) allows for excludable time due to "delay resulting from trial  
6 with respect to other charges against the defendant." This provision encompasses  
7 not only "the trial itself but also the period of time utilized in making necessary  
8 preparations for trial." *United States v. Lopez-Osuna*, 242 F.3d 1191, 1198 (9th Cir.  
9 2001) (internal quotations and citation omitted).

10  
11 The exclusion is most often applied when a delay has been caused by a  
12 separate trial (and the preparation necessary for that separate trial) on other  
13 charges, even when the charges are before another court. *See United States v.*  
14 *Drake*, 542, F.3d 1080 (9th Cir. 2008). The provision would not exist at all if  
15 Congress considered it unconscionable for a defendant's trial to be delayed while he  
16 answers for other crimes. *Zedner v. United States*, 547 U.S. 489, 497 (2006) ("[T]he  
17 Act recognizes that criminal cases vary widely and that there are valid reasons for  
18 greater delay in particular cases.").

19 Nor have courts found anything improper under the Sixth Amendment in  
20 applying the exclusion. *See United States v. Lopez-Espindola*, 632 F.2d 107, 110  
21 (9th Cir. 1980) (accommodating a delay in a federal trial while state proceedings  
22 were ongoing); *Lopez-Osuna*, 242 F.3d 1191 (upholding a delay in proceedings where  
23  
24

1 the defendant was charged separately in the same federal district); *United States v.*  
2 *Arellano-Rivera*, 244 F.3d 1119, 1123 (9th Cir. 2001) (same).

3         Indeed, the same claim raised by Cavalier in his objections – no simultaneous  
4 prosecutions – was rejected by the Ninth Circuit in *United States v. Matta-*  
5 *Ballesteros*, 72 F.3d 136 (Table), 1995 WL 746007, at \*2 (9th Cir. 1995) (“The Act  
6 expressly excludes from computation “[a]ny period of delay resulting from other  
7 proceedings concerning the defendant, including . . . delay resulting from trial with  
8 respect to other charges against the defendant.”), (citing *United States v. Lopez-*  
9 *Espindola*, 632 F.2d 107, 109 (9th Cir. 1980); *United States v. Allsup*, 573 F.2d  
10 1141, 1144 (9th Cir. 1978) (emphasis in original)). There, the court rejected the  
11 defendant’s argument that his right to speedy trial under the STA had been denied  
12 because of the delay caused by a trial in another case involving the kidnapping and  
13 murder of a DEA agent. *Id.* Finally, weighing the *Barker v. Wingo* factors, the  
14 *Matta* court specifically rejected the notion that there was any Sixth Amendment  
15 violation, finding that “the reason for the delay was legitimate and in good faith:  
16 Matta was on trial elsewhere.” *Id.*

18         Here, Judge Leen carefully weighed the factors that Congress has proscribed  
19 in designating the case complex and setting trial ten months from the last  
20 defendant’s first appearance. Judge Leen cited numerous factors that supported  
21 her conclusion, including the number of defendants, the severity and number of  
22 charges, the voluminous nature of discovery, the large number of potential  
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1 witnesses, and other charges pending in another district against 7 of the 19  
2 defendants. (C.R. 321 at pp 7-11.)

3 Judge Leen's Order is consistent not only with the STA but cases similar to  
4 the instant cases in severity of charges, number of defendants, and voluminous  
5 nature of discovery which have been found to be appropriately designated complex  
6 time and time again by the Ninth Circuit. *See, e.g., United States v. Butz*, 982 F.2d  
7 1378, 1381 (9th Cir. 1993) (upholding the district court's exclusion of time in a case  
8 charging seven defendants with conspiracy based upon the complexity of the case  
9 which indicated that counsel would need extra time to conduct discovery, file  
10 pretrial motions, and prepare defenses to the charges —finding that complexity  
11 “outweigh[s] the interests of individual defendants”); *United States v. Murray*, 771  
12 F.2d 1324, 1328 (9th Cir.1985) (upholding the district court's exclusion of time  
13 because of the complexity of the case, the ongoing nature of the investigation, and  
14 the potential multiplicity of defendants); *United States v. Lu*, 174 F. App'x 390, 397  
15 (9th Cir. 2006) (multiple defendants, severity of charges); *United States v. Castellon*,  
16 80 F. App'x 562, 563-64 (9th Cir. 2003) (number of defendants, volume of discovery);  
17 *United States v. Lewis*, 611 F.3d 1172, 1175-76 (9th Cir. 2010) (voluminous  
18 discovery, large number of counts, several defendants, ongoing investigation).

20 Finally, Cavalier is set for trial in Oregon in September 2016 and, pursuant  
21 to Court Order in that case, he has been ordered to remain detained in Oregon to  
22 prepare for trial in that case and is unavailable for trial in Nevada. Nevertheless, if  
23 Cavalier truly desires to go to trial in Nevada before September 2016, he can always  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the foregoing **GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT BRIAN D. CAVALIER'S OBJECTIONS TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE ORDER** was served upon counsel of record, via Electronic Case Filing (ECF).

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

/s/ Nadia Ahmed  
NADIA AHMED  
Special Assistant United States Attorney